

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3425

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS OCON SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: PRESS STATEMENT FOR 18TH COUNCIL MEETING

DEPT. S/S FOR PENDLETON AND EA/RA FOR LAMBERTSON

1. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON SEPTEMBER 26 AGREED ON FOLLOWING DRAFT PRESS STATMENT TO BE APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 28COUNCIL MEETING:

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA TREATY OFGANIZATION FOR AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND , THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES HELD THEIR EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK TODAY.

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3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, SEATO SECRETARY-

GENERAL H.E. MR SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND HAD AGREED TO UPHOLD THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MANILA PACT AND ITS BASIC PURPOSE OF PEACE IN THE REGION.

4. THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED AND APPROVED MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SEATO'S FUTURE PROGRAMS WERE APPROPRIATE TO THE NEW SITUATION IN THE TREATY AREA BROUGHT ABOUT BY RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IT AGREED THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SEATO SHOULD PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE TWO REGIONAL MEMBERS, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND, AND THAT ITS MILITARY ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REDUCED. WITH THAT OBJECTIVE IN MIND, SEATO MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONTINUE AND POSSIBLY INCREASE MULTILATERAL OR BILATERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AID TO REGIONAL MEMBERS COUNTRIES.

5. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS FOR A COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN STAFF IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ORGANISATIONS SUPPORT OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT MEASURES OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS. THIS WILL RESULT IN A REDUCTION IN THE STAFF AT THE SEATO HEADQUARTERS IN BANGKOK.

6. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE TREATY REQUIRED MEMBER NATIONS TO COOPERATE IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC PROGRESS, SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND PEACE IN THE TREATY AREA. THEY BELIEVED THAT THE CHANGES MENTIONED ABOVE WOULD RESULT IN SEATO'S ACTIVITIES BEING MORE RELEVANT TO CURRENT CONDITIONS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

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